Kew – Nov. 6th – 68 –

My dear Sue,

I bade you good bye Monday so that I might be sure my letter went before I went to Clapham – I was very busy all Tuesday morng. cutting some work, & we had our lunch & took the train – Really one must see them, to form an idea of the number of R. road that encircle London, crossing & interlacing, & trains perpetually passing; how half the people don't go wrong, is I think to the praise of the general sagacity – We took tickets to Clapham Junction, a charming place! a railroad above you, another below, one on each side, rail-roads at right angles, & acute angles, & obtuse angles – They say 800 trains pass there daily – You are not allowed to cross the track, & instead of the usual fashion to mount & go over a bridge, you dive down to subterranean communications; they are numbered & have names up, but suppose you are in a hurry to catch a train, & must buy a ticket in No. 5 & then take the 5th turn to your right, or 3rd turn to your left, one gets fearfully bewildered! – Dr. Gray took a sudden fancy to take the Clapham branch, instead of a cab as we had proposed, & so we darted down one flight & up another, & then a porter caught the bag & raced off underground & we after him, & just caught a train, & then stopped because the train was late, some ten minutes outside a station – At last we reached [illegible]

our feet, for he devoted himself to us, & showed us the things most interesting & worth seeing in the progress of Grecian art, especially; early vases, going on to the highest period, bronze ornaments, & terra cotta figures, immense collections worth weeks of study – Then to the sculpture & paintings but it is hopeless to attempt to describe – Then we went down to lunch in the basement, & having done a good day's work were satisfied for that time – I rested while the rest went to the reading-room – Mr. N. was very kind & cordial, & we had a delightful morng. – Dr. Gray went back to work some more, leaving me to Mrs. Dabney's care to get to the North London road; he was to dine with Mr. Bentham & go to the Linnaean Soc. in the Evg. – Mr. Church walked with us a short way, & then we bade him good bye. He was to go back to-day – Mrs. Dabney guided me through the Soho Bazaar, where one gets all sorts of odd things, & then by omnibuses we got to Highbury Station, near her sister's, & she kindly put me in the train for Kew – It was shivery cold, & this morng. we waked to sharp frost on window panes & grass, & today has been really cold –

I have kept quiet, resting – Only a short walk for a bit of sun-shine ~~&~~ some errands – Mrs. Hooker came to call with Lizzie Darwin, who is passing a few days with her, & later came Gen. Munro, handsomer than ever, & very pleasant –

I have had nice letters this week from Mary Stone & Minnie Batchelder. The last with plenty of Cambridge news, but nothing as to who is the new President of the College –

Yesterday morng. came the news of Grant's triumph, but I wish Butler had been defeated – We hope things may get on better now at the South –

Today brings mother to London, I suppose – Ever affly, Jane –

rain & found we were at Clapham Rise instead of Clapham Common as Dr. G. had intended, so that we might call on the Hanburys on our way to the Wards. Well, we took a cab to the Wards, & a private carriage stopped on our way as we reached the door – we went in one parlor & waited, & when Charlotte came in, began asking how we should get to the H.s, when it turned out Mrs. Hanbury herself was the lady calling – especially to see me! So she made her call in one room, we in the other, mean-time! – Well, we settled down to staying quietly, I got a little rest, & we had a pleasant dinner & eve'g, meeting Mr. Braithwaite, Charlotte's fiancée – Next morn'g Dr. Gray went back to Kew, & I stayed to lunch – did some shopping, getting little things odd to find, & after lunch they sent for a cab for me & I set off alone to call on Mrs. Hanbury, a nice, comfortable looking elderly lady, looking thoroughly English with her round, rosy cheeks, & then to Clapham Junction – Cabby did not know the way & drove slowly, though I said often to drive fast, & I grew nervous – At last I was dropped at a gate leading up a long path; I dropped my fare into his hand & raced off, bag, bundle & umbrella, through the rain, & reaching the underground passages, sped along looking for Richmond line, – for I had to take two trains to get to Kew, as the Kew train did not stop – I emerged on the platform at No. 4, but there was no ticket office there, so I dashed back to the porter on the stairs, "All right for Putney, ma'am," "But where shall I get a ticket?" "At No. 5, but shall I get it for you?" So I left him to go up & down stairs, & gave him 2d. for his pains – Thanks to the trains generally being a little late I was in time, got to Putney, got out & waited there 15 minutes, seeing green-eyed monsters with red eyes in their tails, or red-eyes with yellow, dash by in the dusk, or stop, & at last got my train & got to Kew at dark – Dr. Gray was in the station to meet me, & happily the heavy rain had stopped – And I consider myself an uncommonly smart woman to have made my way alone –

We waked yesterday morn'g to a clear sky, & while dressing remembered it was the 5th. of November, Guy Fawkes' day, by hearing cries & singing, & presently a group of children came under our windows with a stuffed figure in a hand-barrow, & a black mask for its face – I could not catch the words sung, but the leader rang a hand-bell as a sort of accompaniment, & "hurray" seemed the chorus – Before we were dressed came another with a red mask, & while at breakfast two more – We threw out some pennies, & heard the bells all around the green –

After breakfast we set off for London for the British Museum, where we had agreed to meet Mrs. Dabney & Mr. Church – When we got to the gates, behold it was a closed day! However, Dr. Gray was admitted as a student for the Botanical department, & we made our way there; & explaining our trouble to Mr. Carruthers, he sent an order to have them admitted; meanwhile Dr. Gray went to work, & I looked over some lovely drawings of plants. Presently word was bro't Dr. Gray that a gentleman with Mr. Maskelyne was waiting for him, & going out we found Mrs. Dabney had been patiently waiting among the stuffed beasts, as first agreed, & going on, we found Mr. Church with Mr. Maskelyne. He was one of our old Oxford acquaintances, years ago, & getting a closed day was falling on